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| Midcoast Community Council An elected Advisory Council to the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors representing Montara, Moss Beach, El Granada, Princeton, and Miramar PO Box 248, Moss Beach, CA 94038 http://www.MidcoastCommunityCouncil.org Email: midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com | Gus Mattammal, Chair Gregg Dieguez, Vice Chair Kimberly Williams, Secretary Scott Bollinger, Treasurer Dan Haggerty Ann Rothman Claire Toutant |
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Minutes of MCC Regular Meeting, October 9, 2024

The Midcoast Community Council held an in-person hybrid meeting that included video and teleconference attendance options, at the Granada Community Services District office at 504 Avenue Alhambra, 3rd Floor, in El Granada, California.

Gus Mattammal, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Council members present were:

Gus Mattammal, Chair
Gregg Dieguez, Vice Chair (attended remotely as a voting member under AB. 2449)
Kimberly Williams
Dan Haggerty
Ann Rothman (attended remotely as a voting member under AB. 2449)
Claire Toutant (attended remotely as a voting member under AB.2449)
Scott Bollinger was absent.

1. Board of Supervisors' Report and Reports from other Government Officials

A. Supervisor Ray Mueller provided the following updates:

- Quarry Park Fall Fest sponsored by San Mateo County Parks will take place on Saturday, October 12, 2024 from 2-5pm. Supervisor Mueller will be tabling at the event. This is a community event and all are welcome.
- The California Attorney General has filed a lawsuit against AHMC Seton Medical Center for the closure of Seton Coastside and for violations of the agreement with Seton General. Separately, the County is continuing to pursue opening an urgent care center on the Coast.
- The County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution, proposed by Supervisor Mueller, asking Governor Newsom to declare a state of emergency in California over rising cost and availability of property insurance. Regulations to address the issue are expected from the Insurance Commissioner by end of the year, but won't go into effect until 2026. The resolution asks the Governor to implement the regulations immediately via an emergency order.
- The Board of Supervisors adopted another resolution proposed by Supervisor Mueller, to install adult changing stations in county facilities, noting requirements at the state level, and encouraging cities and towns to incorporate them as well. Supervisor Mueller said he would welcome any ideas for other similar needs.
- The County is looking for locations for a child care center to address the loss of the Picasso Preschool site in El Granada.
- Supervisor Mueller reported that while the County is pursuing a permit from the CA Coastal Commission to repair Mirada Road, the cost of maintaining the road isn't sustainable over the long term and alternative solutions will need to be found.

- The County has requested changes to the way funds allocated to the MCC are distributed and administered. The Supervisor said a letter to the MCC is forthcoming, detailing reasons this change is required and relevant budget rules. He encouraged the MCC to contact Connie to understand procedures and timeline for expense and reimbursement requests, and to contact the Controller's office or County Counsel to answer additional questions.

Council Comments/Questions:

- 1) Kimberly asked whether there are other similar types of services or accommodation for aging seniors and their families, in addition to the changing stations.
She commented that the Coastal Commission encourages moving utility infrastructure inland as opportunity arises rather than continuing to protect it in high risk areas.
In regard to the MCC's funding allocation from the County, she asked if the County could increase the annual allocation to make up for loss of the ability to roll over funds. She said another way needs to be found to support the MCC in fulfilling its mission while also complying with the law; the County's allocation to the MCC is very small.
- 2) Claire expressed concern that the MCC would not be able to request and receive funds in a timely manner for outreach materials and participation in community events, workshops, and meetings. She suggested that the MCC could be funded through a grant from the County.
 - The Supervisor responded that grants can only be considered for a specific request and purpose. He said the County may be able to allow some cash on hand for de minimis expenses only.
- 3) Dan asked if it has been determined that the way the MCC was set up and operated in the past was illegal? He said the change will limit MCC's ability to function well.
- 4) Gregg requested a written statement explaining the rationale for the changes and the regulations or statutes that require them. He noted the Controller is an elected office.

Public Comments:

1. Jill Grant suggested the County consider a stipend for the MCC members similar to the way the GCSD Board is compensated per meeting.
2. Carlisle Ann Young commented that because the MCC is often not notified of events and opportunities until the last minute, the proposed budget procedure will make it harder for the MCC to participate. She noted the value of the MCC to function as a buffer between the public and the Supervisors, who would otherwise receive a higher volume of communications from the public.

2. Council Updates

a. Recruiting MCC candidates:

- Gregg reported that the elections office is unable to add the MCC to the ballot for write-in candidates because the ballot design has been finalized. No one applied to run for the three open positions on the Council. Open positions can still be filled by appointment in between elections.

Other Council updates:

- Gregg suggested the MCC table at the Quarry Park Fall Fest. He will reach out to the Parks Director for information.
- Claire announced a community-wide meeting on Healthcare Access scheduled for October 29, 2024 at the Oceano Hotel from 6-8pm. The meeting is sponsored by the Age-Friendly Group and involves the MCC, the Pescadero Municipal Advisory

Council (PMAC), and the City of Half Moon Bay. Claire requested funds and materials to support MCC participation in the meeting.

3. Public Comment & Announcements

No public comments or announcements were made.

4. Consent Agenda

- a. Approve minutes of July 10, 2024

Decision:

Upon a motion made by Dan Haggerty and seconded by Kimberly Williams, the minutes of the July 10, 2024, MCC meeting were approved by a vote of 6-0.

5. Regular Agenda

a. Support PCTV increased bandwidth (Dieguez)

Martin Anaya, Executive Director of Pacific Coast Television (PCTV), spoke to the MCC about State and Federal mandates for equal access to bandwidth for public television services and the lack of transparency and access provided by cable companies to avoid compliance. PCTV requested the MCC write a letter in support of PCTV on this issue to the California Public Utilities Commission.

No public comments were made.

Action Item: *Gus and Gregg volunteered to draft a letter in support of public television.*

b. Discussion of El Granada school lighting (Haggerty)

The MCC engaged in discussion around community concerns about the El Granada school lighting plans. Cabrillo Unified School District Superintendent Amber Lee-Alva, Construction Project Manager Roger Anchartechahar, and Lighting Designer Shannon Goolsbee, were present to share updates, information, and answer questions. The parking lot lighting plans are currently going through a separate Coastal Development Permit (CDP) process for review and approval. A forum is planned for November as another opportunity for public participation.

Council Comments:

- 1) Dan commented that there is room to improve upon the current plan, that the community would like to see minimal impact from the project.
- 2) Dan asked about lighting zones, outdoor lighting output for path of travel, and potential variances. He expressed concern that the Division of State Architects (DSA) has a "one size fits all" approach that doesn't consider actual conditions on the ground.
- 3) Gregg said a visual depiction of the look and feel of the lights on at night would be helpful. He asked about the higher light levels shown on the plans, in the Northwest parking lot, and whether it could be thinned out in the design. He expressed concern about lighting impacts in fog. He questioned the use of "industry standard" which could be based on promoting the sales of lighting equipment.
- 4) Kimberly asked if covered walkways were considered in an effort to limit lighting impacts. She asked how the lighting plan would be maintained over time to ensure knowledge is passed on as staff turnover occurs, so that equipment is maintained and replaced appropriately. Superintendent Lee-Alva responded that the final lighting plan would be adopted as a written CUSD policy to ensure correct maintenance.
- 5) Dan mentioned that darker color finish on lighting fixtures is also important.

Action Item: Gregg will share the presentation by Dr. Travis Longcore about the impacts of artificial lighting on people, wildlife, and environment, with Superintendent Lee-Alva and the project team.

Public Comments:

1. Superintendent Amber Lee-Alva said she is committed to balancing the School District's needs to ensure staff safety and protection of school property while being good neighbors.
2. Superintendent Lee-Alva noted that the DSA doesn't take into consideration the impact of lighting in fog, which is a concern.
3. Kimberly Hines, speaking as a resident of El Granada, opposes installing tall light polls, noting that the area is in line of sight of homes. She would like to see medium density bollard placement. She noted there are 17 less general parking spaces and she asked that lights be turned off at night in the parking lot.
4. Natalie Downe commented that lighting interferes with nighttime bird migration, disrupts bats and other wildlife. She requested lights be turned off automatically and include shielding, warmer light, and dark colored fixtures to prevent reflection. She said industry standard doesn't mean we have to do the same, we can do better.
5. Melinda MacNaughton encouraged asking for a variance from DSA and mentioned the need for a visual depiction of how the lighting will look. She said El Granada School has always been relatively dark and this plan will be a big change. She asked for a calculation of the difference between the tall polls and bollards. She suggested the cleaning crew adjust schedules to arrive earlier and that motion sensor lights be used.
6. Steve Terry asked if the map reflected the new construction, noted the portables aren't shown, and asked how the path of travel is connected. He asked if light from the street lights were taken into account and whether there was any spillover that could help reduce the number of lights. He asked if pole mounted lights could use cone control to prevent light from shining off the property. Is there a plan to do luminance measurements particularly from the property line, and is there a plan to deal with the existing lighting? Wall-mounted lights also need cone control. He suggested lighting be dimmed after 6pm.
7. Written comments submitted by Thanh Vo were read aloud by request during public comment and are appended to the meeting minutes as part of the public record.
8. Written comments submitted by Michelle and Tim Bradley were read aloud by request during public comment and are appended to the meeting minutes as part of public record.

c. Proposal for Midcoast lighting ordinance (Haggerty)

The MCC reviewed and discussed a draft letter to Supervisor Mueller and the Board of Supervisors, recommending a lighting ordinance for the Midcoast unincorporated areas, that would follow DarkSky International guidelines. The draft letter received preliminary approval with one change, to clarify a reference to the County Food Service Ware Ordinance. As there was no in-person quorum, a final vote of approval is pending.

Public Comments:

1. Steve Terry suggested that the reference to the County's Food Service Ware Ordinance be further explained or a link provided for those who may not be aware of it.

5. Council Activity – Correspondence and meetings attended

- Gregg Dieguez will table on behalf of the MCC at Quarry Park Fall Fest and would welcome other MCC volunteers to join him.
- Kimberly Williams reported that at the September 23rd Pacifica City Council meeting, the Pacifica quarry reclamation project appeal was denied by the Pacifica City Council. This project would have potentially increased traffic congestion on highway 1 in Pacifica.
- Kimberly attended a [Coastal Commission workshop](#) with local government working groups on neighborhood-scale approaches to adaptation planning.

6. Future Agendas (Tentative): SMC transportation, Stormwater; MCC communications policy; change in MCC funding allocation process; story poles requirement for new projects; RCD new staff introduction; Sheriff's Department update.

The meeting adjourned at 10:24pm.



Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

El Granada Elementary Parking Lot

1 message

MICHELLE BRADLEY <415bradley@comcast.net>

Wed, Oct 9, 2024 at 5:23 PM

To: "midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com" <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

To Whom it may concern,

Please read this for the record into your meeting.

Looking at the plans for the new parking lot, we would like some changes made. The 25' lights are not acceptable. We pay a lot of money for our view, we even paid to have the electrical lines put underground. Here is what we would like to see:

***NO 25' LIGHTS!**

*Bollards are ok

*Put soffit lights on K building to help with the parking lot lighting.

*They must turn off every night, preferably an hour after everyone is scheduled to leave for the day

***No reduction of parking spaces.** We have enough trouble with everyone blocking our driveways and parking in front of our houses now.

*The lighting timers need to be controlled from the EG Elementary office

This school is located across from the ocean. If lights are on all night, it will affect the wildlife in the area. We want our teachers, students and staff to be safe, no one wishes otherwise. Having 25' lights on all night is not helping them. There is no reason the staff couldn't change the timers when there is an evening function.

Sincerely,

Michelle and Tim Bradley



Gregg Dieguez <mccgreggd@gmail.com>

El Granada School Parking Lot Lighting Comments

Thanh Vo <tvoelgranada@yahoo.com>

Tue, Oct 8, 2024 at 8:10 AM

To: Midcoast Community Council <midcoastcommunitycouncil@gmail.com>

Cc: Terri Eckert <terri.eckert@comcast.net>, Ben Nitzan <bennitzan@yahoo.com>, Donna Sorfleet <fleeter@comcast.net>, Alec Hogg <alec.hogg.jr@gmail.com>, Kimberley Evans <kim.hmbevans@gmail.com>, Hoai Chen <anna.chen3@gmail.com>, Julie Bellagamba <julie.bellagamba@gmail.com>, Lan Vo-Eicher <bofat.cat@gmail.com>, mkottman23@gmail.com, kate.kottman@gmail.com

Dear Mid Coast Community Council,

We are grateful that the revised El Granada parking lot lighting design addresses community concerns and that the number of tall light poles has been reduced.

A few Coastsides neighbors and I would like to preserve Dark Sky on the Coast as much as we can. We advocate to use lighting only when necessary without trespassing and polluting wildlife domain, neighbor's properties and view, and the sky. We have some comments. I speak on behalf of the group. Please read for record as I cannot attend in person or remote. Thank you very much.

1. I saw the lighting design on MCC Agenda last Sunday a few days before the MCC review meeting on Wednesday and School Board meeting on Thursday this week. I found the last El Granada community outreach meeting on January 25, 2024 very productive. El Granada neighbors were able to voice concerns and feedback. Continuation of the collaboration effort would provide much needed transparency.

2. I understand that the lighting on/off window is large and vague until further instructions are received from the District.

We are lucky to be in a scenic corridor. Only a few events require full lighting. Partial lighting provides adequate safety for when a custodian exits the campus. There are many scenarios to dictate when full or partial parking lot lighting is necessary to lessen the impact on neighbors and wildlife. Perhaps more collaboration is necessary to fine tune the lighting on/off criteria.

3. Can we please confirm that bollards and parking lot lighting will be off 30 minutes after campus is no longer occupied?

4. At the public outreach meeting at EG School last spring, the lighting designer said the tall poles were recommended, but not required. Current plans show five 25ft poles. It is certainly desired that the last person to leave campus be safe and feel comfortable. That can be achieved without lighting up the entire parking lot. 25 ft poles would be visible from underneath, from Hwy 1 and across the street Santiago and down the block across the Alameda. A dark parking lot at night in this location is preferable to a lit parking lot that attracts more people to congregate.

Shorter poles below neighborhood windows are friendlier. Dark Sky fixtures are preferred. I live half way up the hill. I see the fire station tall lighting poles on my way home. The light fixtures there are blinding. The National Parks Dark Sky parking lot lighting poles that I have seen are not that tall. At the National Park, I can see where I am parking and walking but not the owl sitting in the tree. Shorter poles might serve just as well and keep the neighbors happier.

That's all I have. Thank you Mid Coast Community Council for your time.

Sincerely,

Dark Sky Friends
T. Vo
139 Del Monte Road
El Granada